

United States Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Georgia
October 14, 2020 Virtual Community Forum on
Firearms & Domestic Violence

The U.S. Attorney's Office thanks the participants for volunteering their time to engage with each other and the community on this vital topic. Their varied pursuits, life experiences, and expertise, all contributed to the richness of our conversation:

Karyn Greer
CBS46 Anchor



A long-time Atlanta resident, Karyn is well known in the local television market and has a history of hands-on community involvement. She is the past president of the Atlanta Press Club and currently serves on the Board of Governors for the National Academy of Television, Arts & Sciences.

Karyn is the recipient of six Southeast Emmy awards, two awards from the Atlanta Association of Black Journalists and a Salute to Excellence award from the National Association of Black Journalists.

Karyn is a member of the Magnolia chapter of The Links Inc., a charter member of the Greater North Atlanta Chapter of Jack and Jill of America Inc., on the board of Pebble Tossers Inc., and a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc. to name just a few.

Karyn has been the recipient of numerous awards honoring both her professional work and community contributions. She has consistently been named one of Atlanta's 100 Women of Influence by the Atlanta Business League and featured as a powerhouse in Who's Who in Black Atlanta.

Byung J. "BJay" Pak
U.S. Attorney, Northern
District of Georgia



On October 10, 2017, Byung J. "BJay" Pak was sworn in as the 25th presidentially appointed U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Georgia. He returned to the office, having served as an Assistant U.S. Attorney in the Criminal Division from 2002 to 2008. Previously, BJay was in private practice handling complex civil litigation and defending clients in white-collar investigations and prosecutions.

From January 2011 to January 2017, BJay served in the Georgia General Assembly as a State Representative from the 108th District. He served three terms as a State Representative and voluntarily retired in January 2017. During his legislative tenure, BJay served as a Deputy Majority Whip, as the Vice Chair of the Judiciary Non-Civil Committee, as Chair of the Subcommittee on Crimes Against Person, Property, and Public

Byung J. "BJay" Pak, cont.

Administration, and as Secretary of the Code Revision Committee. He was also a member of the tax writing Ways & Means Committee and the Health and Human Services Committee, and was the Chairman of the Gwinnett County Legislative Delegation. For his policy work, BJay has won recognition from numerous organizations and has been recognized by James Magazine in its "Most Influential Legislators" list.

He earned his Juris Doctorate, summa cum laude, and Order of the Coif, from the University of Illinois College of Law, where he was a Harbo Scholar, served as the Notes Editor for the Recent Decisions Section of the Illinois Bar Journal, and as a member of the Elder Law Journal. In 2013, his law school named him "Distinguished Alumnus of the Year." Upon graduating from law school, he clerked for Honorable Richard Mills, United States District Judge for the Central District of Illinois. He is a graduate of Stetson University where he was a Florida Academic Scholar, a member of the Omicron Delta Kappa, and was on the Interfraternity Council. BJay is a registered Certified Public Accountant in Illinois. BJay and his wife, Sandra, have three daughters and live in Lilburn.

Sherry Boston
DeKalb County District
Attorney



As District Attorney for the Stone Mountain Judicial Circuit, Sherry Boston oversees the prosecution of felony offenses filed in the Superior Court of DeKalb County, including murder, drug and sex offenses, child and elder abuse, theft, and corruption. Prior to this role, District Attorney Boston served as DeKalb County Solicitor-General, the elected prosecutor overseeing misdemeanor crimes.

In addition to her elected positions, District Attorney Boston has also received several notable appointments. She was the first woman appointed as Municipal Court Judge for the City of Dunwoody and also served as Associate Magistrate Judge for DeKalb County. In addition to her judicial service, Ms. Boston has also worked in private practice handling thousands of misdemeanor and felony criminal cases in metro Atlanta.

Among other community and legal organizations in which she is involved, District Attorney Boston is an active member of the State Bar of Georgia. She currently chairs the Investigative Panel of the State Disciplinary Board, which has the power to

Sherry Boston, cont.

investigate and discipline members of the State Bar for violations of Standards of Conduct. District Attorney Boston also serves on the State Bar's Board of Governors.

In addition to her varied State Bar roles, District Attorney Boston is an instructor for Basic Litigation for the Prosecuting Attorneys' Council of Georgia and is regularly called upon to speak to local and national audiences on a number of issues related to law enforcement, trial preparation and cross-examination strategies.

Throughout her career, Ms. Boston has received numerous awards and recognition for her work and commitment to important causes such as domestic violence awareness and prevention/intervention initiatives. District Attorney Boston is a graduate of Villanova University in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and Emory University School of Law.

Janet Paulsen
Survivor and Advocate


In 2015, Janet Paulsen was a suburban mother living a full, but seemingly ordinary, life. She was the executive vice president of the Acworth Baseball Association. She and her husband of 15 years owned a mortgage servicing business. She volunteered in community organizations and shuttled her teenage sons to sports practice.

Paulsen was also living a different life behind closed doors. She was living with an abusive, alcoholic husband – a living nightmare sleeping beside her every night. On Nov. 5, 2015 her then-husband attempted kill her by shooting her six times, leaving her right leg paralyzed due to a spinal cord injury. Following multiple surgeries and physical therapy, she now chooses to live her life to the fullest by taking care of her 18-year old twin sons, participating in sports and by being a voice for others living in similar situations. In sharing her story, she empowers other survivors by providing valuable insight into her experience of navigating an imperfect system. She has also contributed her voice to advocacy in support of firearm laws that would more effectively restrict access to firearms by individuals involved in domestic violence. Janet was recently appointed to serve as a Commission Member of the Georgia Commission on Family Violence.

Lauren Hudak, MD, MPH
Grady Memorial Hospital and
Emory Univ. School of
Medicine



Lauren Hudak, MD, MPH is an attending physician of Emergency Medicine at Grady Memorial Hospital in Atlanta, Georgia, and an Assistant Professor at Emory University School of Medicine.

Dr. Hudak's clinical interest includes the care of trauma and injury patients with a focus on victims of sexual assault, intimate partner violence, and firearm injured patients. Her public health and research interest includes the impact of violence and injury on mental health and the community, as well as firearm injury prevention in the clinical environment. She is the Assistant Director of the Injury Prevention Research Center at Emory (IPRCE) where she co-leads the Violence Prevention Task Force collaborating with multiple Atlanta area research and community organizations. She serves as the Emergency Medicine Sexual Violence curriculum director, coordinating training for the sexual assault forensic examination as well as comprehensive trauma informed clinical care. Her current research projects include examining the acceptability of firearm related injury screening and safety practices in Emergency Department patients as well as assessing firearm injury trends, risk and protective factors, and hospital based violence intervention in the healthcare setting.

Sharla Jackson, JD
Prosecuting Attorneys' Council
of Georgia



Ms. Jackson serves as the Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Resource Prosecutor for the Prosecuting Attorneys' Council of Georgia where she oversees domestic violence and sexual assault training for prosecutors, law enforcement officers and victim advocates throughout the state of Georgia, Basic Mandate Training for the Georgia State Patrol, and all prosecution-delivered training funded under the Violence Against Women's Act. She also supervises Georgia's statewide Prosecution Team on the Sexual Assault Kit Initiative Task Force. Ms. Jackson is an expert trainer in trial advocacy and law enforcement response. She is also an expert on crime victims' rights. She has increased training opportunities for underserved and rural areas of Georgia and was recently recognized with the "Shining Light Award" given by the Partnership Against Domestic Violence for her innovative program, Court School for Victims Advocates. Ms. Jackson has drafted legislation on the issues of Elder Abuse, Domestic Violence, Animal Abuse and Organized Retail Crime. The City of

Sharla Jackson, cont.

Atlanta designated June 24, 2010, "Sharla Jackson Day" in recognition of her service.

After graduating cum laude from Spelman College with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Spanish, Sharla Jackson graduated from the University of Miami School of Law with her Juris Doctorate.

**Brian Johnston
GBI, ASAC**

Brian Johnston is an Assistant Special Agent in Charge at the GBI's Calhoun Regional Office. The work unit is responsible for twelve (12) Northwest Georgia counties. ASAC Johnston has been in law enforcement for 25 years and has been assigned to various work units across the State of Georgia to include the Child Exploitation and Computer Crimes Unit, Major Theft Unit, West Metro Drug Enforcement Office, Atlanta Regional Office, and the Metro Fugitive Squad. Prior to serving as ASAC of the Calhoun Regional Office, Johnston served as ASAC of Georgia's Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force.